

TRIBUTE TO MISSOURI FARM
BUREAU

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to the Missouri Farm Bureau President Charlie Kruse and members of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, which was recently recognized as one of the nation's top state Farm Bureau organizations. The Missouri Farm Bureau was awarded the American Farm Bureau's most prestigious award, the President's Award, at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 84th Annual Meeting.

The American Farm Bureau's President's Award is awarded to state Farm Bureaus that excel in the organization's 12 program categories. The categories include: membership; commodity and marketing information; young farmers and ranchers program; public relations; state and local governmental affairs; leadership and organization development; public policy implementation; special programs; political education programs; policy development; agriculture in the classroom; and agriculture promotion. In each of these categories, the Missouri Farm Bureau received a gold star for excellence, which is the highest possible recognition a state Farm Bureau can receive. This is the eighth year that the Missouri Farm Bureau has been able to claim the top award.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie Kruse and the members of the Missouri Farm Bureau can be proud of the accomplishments. I know the Members of the House will join me in saluting the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation for receiving this well deserved award.

IN COMMEMORATION OF U.S.
CENTRAL CREDIT UNION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Central Credit Union (U.S. Central), located in my home state of Kansas, has worked to support corporate credit unions in serving their members through innovative and premier financial services for nearly 30 years. U.S. Central was chartered in 1974 to assist corporate credit unions in meeting the financial services needs of consumer credit unions throughout the country.

While providing financial products and services to corporate credit unions, and growing to become a \$33 billion financial institution, U.S. Central has never forgotten the hallmark of the credit union philosophy of "people helping people." Credit unions were created more than 100 years ago to allow people of ordinary means gain financial independence. U.S. Central strives to provide the best value in products and services for its corporate members, and this same guiding principle is passed on to the more than 80 million credit union member consumers that are living in our country today.

As a financial cooperative, U.S. Central strives to make decisions that are in the best

interest of its member owners—the nation's corporate credit unions. Its leaders have learned that this concept brings success to all of us, and that equitable service is of paramount importance.

U.S. Central should also be recognized for its compassion for its surrounding community. Because U.S. Central's membership is comprised of corporate credit unions, which serve consumer credit unions throughout the country, it has defined its community as both local and national in scope.

Nationally, U.S. Central supports organizations such as the National Credit Union Foundation, which helps credit union employees and their families in disaster-recovery situations, and assists credit unions in making affordable mortgages to people of modest means, among other activities. Another focus of U.S. Central's support is the World Council of Credit Unions, which promotes credit union development worldwide for the purpose of expanding affordable financial services to people all over the globe.

Locally, U.S. Central actively supports several community programs. Two key projects that fit well with the company's broad objective of helping to foster people's financial well-being are Kansas City Saves, a coalition encouraging urban residents to save and build wealth more effectively, and the Kansas Jump\$tart Coalition for Financial Literacy, which supports personal finance education for children in grades K–12.

Mr. Speaker, I commend U.S. Central Credit Union for its support, dedication and commitment to the credit unions across our nation, and I applaud them, as they prepare to dedicate their new corporate facility in Lenexa, Kansas, on February 5, 2003, and as they honor the architects of the credit union community that helped credit unions become an important financial resource for today's consumers.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE OF JUDGE GUY H.
MCMICHAEL III UPON HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM THE DEPART-
MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Guy H. McMichael III, who is retiring after a lifetime of public service, including more than 25 years at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Judge McMichael's career includes stints in the Army, as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and at the VA under five Administrators, four Secretaries and five different Presidents.

Judge McMichael graduated from Harvard University and received a law degree from the University of Michigan. He served in the Army for two years and later was in private practice for four years, while also serving as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the State of Indiana. In 1971, he became General Counsel for the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, where he remained for six years until joining the VA following the election of President Carter.

When Judge McMichael first came to the VA with Administrator Max Cleland in 1977, he brought a healthy distrust of what people said and what they did. His discernment and skepticism was resented by some, but over the years, his ability to persuade others of the importance of being honest brought integrity to almost all parts of the VA that he touched. That a man who was the Administrator's right hand during the Carter years would stay on and perform such exemplary service for an additional 23 years is quite remarkable.

In 1981, Administrator Robert P. Nimmo appointed Guy McMichael to the VA Board of Appeals as an Administrative Judge. He was appointed Chairman and Chief Administrative Judge in 1990, and has remained in that position until his retirement this year. Over the past several years, Judge McMichael has also filled several important positions on a temporary basis, including Acting Chief of Staff, Chief Information Officer, and Acting Under Secretary for Benefits.

Mr. Speaker, Judge McMichael's legacy is that of a man who served his nation with compassion and distinction, and advanced the interests of veterans. Truly, he saw his work for veterans as a mission, one that he could devote the full talents God blessed him with. Veterans are better off because he served them as long as he did.

THE INTRODUCTION OF SPIRIT
CORRIDOR LEGISLATION

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to introduce companion legislation to a bill being introduced by Senator BINGAMAN of New Mexico in the Senate. I am also very pleased that my colleagues Mr. JERRY MORAN of Kansas, Mr. FRANK LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. MAC THOMBERRY and Mr. SILVESTRE REYES both of Texas, and Mr. STEVE PEARCE, one of my colleagues in the New Mexico delegation, have joined me in introducing this legislation.

This important bill seeks to designate U.S. Highway 54 as a high priority corridor on the National Highway System. The corridor would be known as the Southwest Passage Initiative for Regional and Interstate Transportation Corridor, or the SPIRIT Corridor. U.S. 54 runs from the border with Mexico at El Paso, Texas, through New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma, to Wichita, Kansas. I am very hopeful that this legislation will help improve transportation infrastructure and stimulate economic development in the communities and states through which U.S. Highway 54 passes.

Mr. Speaker, those who live in the eastern United States know that communities are more compact and the commutes much shorter. For the intermountain west, on the other hand, it is not unheard of for people to have to commute 80 miles to work and 80 miles back home. That is just one of the reasons designating U.S. 54 as a high priority corridor is so important to improving the transportation infrastructure and promoting economic development. Safe and efficient highways are critical to all types of traffic, whether it be tourists visiting or goods being shipped from point to

point. Designating U.S. 54 as a High Priority Corridor will make it eligible for additional federal grants and transportation funds, which will, in turn, help upgrade the highway and improve its safety and efficiency.

As Congress prepares to reauthorize TEA-21, I strongly urge the House and Senate to support this bill and add the SPIRIT Corridor to the list of high priority corridors in our National Highway System.

ROBERT J. DOLE VA MEDICAL &
REGIONAL OFFICE CENTER DEDI-
CATION CEREMONY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD, remarks I gave at a dedication ceremony.

Thank you Senator DOLE, Secretary Principi, and distinguished guests, especially our veterans. I'm delighted to be here today on this very special occasion.

I had intended to be very brief, but I concluded that the sooner we get done, the sooner I will go home. The sooner I go home, the sooner I will see my wife, and if she sees the nightly news with me seated so closely to Cindy Close, our favorite KWCH broadcaster, I'll have some explaining to do. So I'm going to take a few moments.

This is an opportunity to pay a moment of tribute and, hopefully, a lifelong tribute, to a great Kansan. Before I do that, I would like to congratulate Senator-elect DOLE. Russell, Kansas, must be an amazing place because we have three individuals with significant ties to Russell, Kansas, who are past, present and future members of that exclusive club, the United States Senate: Senator Bob Dole, Senator ARLEN SPECTER, and now Senator-elect, ELIZABETH DOLE. We are delighted, as Kansans, to congratulate you on your success.

We're here to pay tribute not only to Senator Dole, but to what Tom Brokaw calls the greatest generation. His words are these: "They came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America, men and women whose everyday lives of duty, honor, achievement, and courage gave us the world we have today."

Bob Dole exemplifies the greatest generation. My purpose in introducing this legislation was not to recognize Bob Dole the Senator, the presidential candidate, or the majority leader. I learned today Bob Dole is the longest-serving majority leader. Senator Dole, I always thought you were the longest-serving Republican candidate for president.

But we recognize him today as that soldier from Russell, Kansas, serving in the mountains of Italy. We recognize him for the consequences of his service and for the course of action he took to rehabilitate his life, and in the process, to change the lives of others. So although we can say many good things about Senator Dole, presidential candidate Dole, and Majority Leader Dole, we are here today to pay tribute to Bob Dole, the soldier.

As you know, Bob Dole seeks no recognition. In 1969, during his first year in the United States Senate, he said, "Most veterans today

want no special recognition or attention. We did our duty, take pride in having served, and seek to live our lives as good and constructive citizens." That's Bob Dole. I have no doubt that he's uncomfortable being here today receiving this recognition.

He was also a product of rehabilitation through the VA. We are also here to pay tribute to the men and women who work for the Department of Veterans Affairs. We are here to pay tribute to the volunteers who help those employees take care of the veterans of the United States. What we do in Washington pales in comparison to what individuals do for our veterans who need health care and rehabilitation services. They also are the heroes.

The bill to designate the Wichita VA as the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center was widely supported. It was introduced in the House of Representatives and supported by our entire congressional delegation. Congressman TIAHRT and I concluded that this was a noble cause to undertake and introduced this bill in April of 2002. Our colleagues in both the House and Senate joined us. My subcommittee and committee passed it unanimously. The bill had 75 cosponsors, republicans and democrats, including the leadership of the House. This legislation was also cosponsored by a fellow Russell native, ARLEN SPECTER, who will be the new Chairman of the Senate Corp Committee on Veterans Affairs. It passed unanimously in both the House and Senate and was signed by President Bush on May 29th, 2002.

In order to get to this point, the legislation had the support of every veterans' service organization in Kansas. Before we started this effort, we made certain that our veterans' organizations were fully supportive of acknowledging Bob Dole in this manner. And, Senator Dole, every one of them said a resounding, yes, this is an appropriate honor for the soldier, Bob Dole. Many of their leaders are here today, and I thank our veterans' service organizations for their support of this legislation and for all that, they do for the veterans of Kansas.

Bob Dole is a role model and hero. He paid tribute, in his first year in the Senate, to one of his idols, his hero, another Kansan—General Dwight David Eisenhower. Bob Dole, talked about General Eisenhower, in 1969, upon General Eisenhower's death, about his dreams as a boy in Abilene, Kansas.

General Eisenhower could never have envisioned the heights he was to scale in his lifetime. The honesty and sincerity, so characteristic of General Eisenhower throughout his life, can be traced to his heritage of his ancestors and strong guidance of his mother. His broad grin and good humor that reflected these qualities made him a popular idol and were part of his magic. People reacted to the special qualities exuded by this man. The contributions made by General Eisenhower are legend. His success in time of war made him a great leader of men. Thereafter, his unparalleled success in politics underscored the respect and confidence he enjoyed by all Americans.

The words that Bob Dole spoke about his hero, his role model, Dwight David Eisenhower, can today be said about our hero and role model, Bob Dole of Kansas. I grew up within 20 miles of Bob Dole's hometown, and I know the dedication, commitment, love and respect that the people of Russell, Kansas, share for their hometown hero.

Let me conclude by quoting, Bob Dole's own words from Memorial Day 2002.

On the one hand, war represents the ultimate failure of mankind or at least of the politicians and diplomats entrusted with keeping the peace. Yet it also summons the greatest qualities of which human beings are capable—courage beyond measure, loyalty beyond words, sacrifice, and ingenuity and endurance beyond imagining.

Today, we pay tribute to Bob Dole's courage, his loyalty, his sacrifice, his ingenuity and his endurance. He is one of those veterans he pays tribute to.

God bless America, and God, thank you for our Bob Dole.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNI-
VERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
HUSKIES

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. I rise today here on the House floor to honor a college basketball team that has not lost a game since March 2001, the pride of eastern Connecticut, a model for our Nation's youth: the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team—the Lady Huskies.

On January 18 of this year, our Huskies won their 55th consecutive game, breaking a record that has held strong since 1982. No other NCAA Division I women's basketball team has won more games in a row. And none has recently shown the ability to put an unbeatable team on the court year after year. It is amazing to think that in two years, the Huskies are 123-4.

There have been bumps along the road. On the 15th of this month, the game against Seton Hall where they tied the streak, they shot under 30 percent and nearly lost in the final moments. But, as great teams do, they found a way to win. They rose to the occasion that day and made the shots that counted.

Coach Geno Auriemma said two days later, "Maybe I should say that I saw it coming. That's how legends are made. Isn't this the place where legends are born?"

It is the dedication of Coach Auriemma and his players—past and present—who make the court of Gampel Pavilion a place where records are set, role models emerge, and legends are indeed born. Thank you for giving us a piece of history.

Here's to 55 more consecutive wins.
U—C—O—N—N, UCONN, UCONN, UCONN.

HONORING MR. FRED HARDY

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Fred Hardy, who is being presented with the Lifetime Achievement award, and will be bestowed the title of Labor Leader Emeritus by the Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Central Labor Council and the Building Trades Council. Mr. Hardy has served